

**Approved: May 1, 2014**

**Rockville Environment Commission  
Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, April 3, 2014  
Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**

**Attendance**

**Commissioners Present:** John Becker, Steve Cardon, Alicia Hosmer (by phone), Ming Hu, Amanda Matheny, and Clark Reed

**Commissioners Absent:**, Kris Dighe, Lydia Han, and Lea Rosenbohm

**M&C Liaison:** Julie Palakovich Carr

**Guests:** Mark Charles, Environmental Management;

Lise Soukup, Environmental Management j

Ryan Marcheschi, City Resident

Scott Clausen, City Resident

Stephanie Reddick, City Resident

**Meeting Commencement**

The meeting convened at 7:34 pm by Chair Reed.

**Approval of the February 6, 2014 and March 6, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

Lacking sufficient Commissioners present at these two meetings, both sets of minutes were deferred to the May meeting.

**Multi-City Environmental Board Meeting in Bowie – March 12, 2014**

Chair Reed briefed the Commission on the discussions of the Bowie meeting, including the Maryland Sustainable certification program, and an EPA national municipal energy reduction/efficiency competition requiring 5 buildings to be offered. Presumably, Rockville would use one of the two we are currently making energy improvements on. The deadline to enter is April 15. Chair Reed will coordinate with other jurisdictions about their interest.

**Final Plans for the Rockville climate Change Lecture on April 9**

The timeframes, attendance and snack responsibilities were confirmed.

**Watts Branch Watershed Assessment**

Lise Soukup, of Environmental Management briefed the Commission on her findings and the assessment report status. She distributed the draft5 report (without appendices) to all of the Commissioners and will take comments until May 1. Ultimately, she is asking for an endorsement of the report and its recommendations. The report is expected to be finished in early summer and the Mayor and Council will receive a briefing on it. The effort documents pollutant sources and current stream condition in the 4,000 mile drainage area, largely located on the City's west side. The assessment documented the existence of 105 public stormwater facilities and 175 private facilities.

**Rockville Bike Master Plan**

The City Bike Master Plan is updated approximately every 10 years. Chair Reed briefed the Commission on the draft plan prepared by the Recreation and Parks Department and the Traffic and Transportation Division within Public Works. The draft plan calls for the creation of approximately 25.5 new miles of bike lanes, bike paths and bike ways. The plan also continues and expands the partnership with *Capital Bikeshare*. Chair Reed had already prepared comments on the draft plan which he discussed with the Commission. Commissioner Cardon moved and Commissioner Becker seconded a motion to endorse and submit the comments to the Planning Commission. The motion passed 6-0-0. The Planning Commission is holding a public hearing on the draft plan on Wednesday, April 9.

**Hometown Holidays Planning**

The City Bike advisory committee has agreed to occupy the Commission's booth on Sunday. The booth is located on Montgomery Avenue in the Vicinity of the Regal Theater. Final staffing decisions for the booth and the movie screenings will be made at the May meeting. Weveral Commissioners may need talking points for staffing the booth. These will also be identified at the May meeting. A question was asked about a sound system for the movie for the Saturday screening at the library. It was confirmed that the library will not be providing any equipment for the Saturday screening (so a laptop is also needed in addition to speakers).

It was further discussed that a rain barrel to raffle off to a resident was also desirable. Commissioner Cardon moved to spend up to \$120 to obtain a rain barrel. Commissioner Matheny seconded and the motion passed 5-0-1 (Commissioner Hosmer abstaining).

The Commission also plans to demonstrate solar roof top capability on a laptop again this year. Chair Reed moved the Commission spend \$30 for a sign to attract resident attention to the booth and Commissioner Becker seconded the purchase of a sign for this purpose. The motion passed 5-0-1 (Commissioner Hosmer abstaining).

**Environmental Management Report**

**Earth Month /Earth Day Proclamation**

Mark Charles discussed the City's Mayor and Council Earth Day Proclamation. Commissioners Becker, Matheny and Rosenbohm attended and accepted the Proclamation.

**Environmental Excellence Awards**

A request for Commissioners to also participate in the April 21 2014 presentation of the Environmental Excellence Awards was made. Commissioners Becker and Matheny again indicated they would attend. Subsequently, the ceremony was moved to Monday, April 28 to avoid a conflict with Passover.

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**Earth Day/Arbor Day**

Finally, Mr. Charles pointed out that the City would celebrate the 44<sup>th</sup> Earth Day and the 25 consecutive Arbor Day at 10:00 am on Tuesday, April 22 and all Commissioners were invited. The event included a tree planting at City Hall. Commissioner Becker indicated he would likely attend.

**Maryvale Stream Clean Up**

The Commission briefly discussed plans for the semi-annual stream clean up at Maryvale Park on Saturday, April 5 from 10:30-12.

**New Business**

No new business items were raised.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 9:20 pm.

**Next Commission Meeting**

The next Commission meeting is *tentatively* scheduled for **Thursday, June 5, 2014**. This meeting will be held in the Diamondback Conference Room of the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland. The public is invited to attend.